

Public Swimming Pools & Water Attractions

Licensed pools are inspected on an annual basis to ensure health and safety practices are being followed and to offer education to facility owners and employees.

The Department of Safety and Professional Services must approve a pool design and construction prior to being licensed for operation.

The operator shall report incidents resulting in death, or serious injury or illness that requires assistance from emergency medical personnel, by the end of the next working day following the incident by phone or fax to the Bureau of Food and Recreational Businesses by calling (608)224-4682 or faxing to (608)224-4710.

EQUIPMENT

The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Act (VGBA) requires all commercial pools and spas to be equipped with anti-entrapment drain covers and devices. Chemicals, UV light, and normal wear will break down the cover, fastening system, and other components, which can cause a potential entrapment hazard. It is important for operators to replace drain covers before the life span expires. The life span of VGBA drain covers varies depending on the manufacturer.

The following list provides the lifespan by manufacturer

MANUFACTURER	LIFESPAN	MANUFACTURER	LIFESPAN
Aquastar	5 years	Neptune Benson	10-15 years
Eureka	20 years	Paramount	5 years
Grate Ideas	10 years	Pentair	7 years
Hayward	7 years	Strongwell	20 years
Lawson	10 years	Waterway	7 years

The pool owner is responsible to replace expired drain/equalizer covers and keep a log and any supporting documents on site for your health inspector to review. Expired drain covers must be replaced with the same manufacturer and model. Make sure to inspect the entire device: frames, sump, screws, plaster rings, and spacers. Do not reuse old screws.